Deccon Lee.

Deacon Lee, who was a kindly, silent, faithful, gracious man, was one day waited upon by a restless, ambitions, worldly church member, who was laboring to pecially to drive away the minister.

who, after the usual greetings, began to I kissed his brow, and told him how lament the low state of religion, and in dear he had been to me. I craved his quire as to the reason why there had been pardon for my unfaithfulness, and promno revival for the last two or three years is d him to care for his widow and fath-

"Now what do you think is the cause of things being dull here ?" The deacon was not ready to give his

opinion; and after a little thought, frankly answe.ed, "I don't know." "Do you think the church are alive to

the work before them ?" "No. I don't."

"Do you think the minister fully realizes the solemnity of his work ?" "No, I don't."

twinkle was seen in the eye of the troubler in Zion, and taking courage, he "Do you think Mr. B. a very extraor-

dinary man." "No, I don't."

great ?" "No, I don't."

ment in monosyllables, he sked: "Then don't you think we had better dismiss this man and hire another ?"

The old deacon started as if shot with an arrow, and in a tone louder than his wont, shouted:

you ?"

"No, I don't."

eternity; and don't you tempt me to break

The troubler was startled at the earnestness of the hitherto silent, immova- enty-five per cent of the people in the United ble man and asked :

"What happened to you thirty years ache, habitual costiveness, impure blood, "Well, sir, I'll tell you I was drawn coated tongue and disagreeable taste in the

into a scheme just like this of yours, to spirits, &c. Go to the Drug Store of Geo. I uproot one of God's servants from the Davis, and get a 75 cent bottle, or a sample bottle for 10 cents. Try it. field in which He had planted him. In my blindnes, I fancied it a little thing to remove one of the 'stars' which Jesus holds in his right hand, if thereby my ear could be tickled by more flowing words, and the pews filled with those who are turned away from the simplicity of the gospel. I and the men that led me-for I admit that I was a dupe and a toolman from the pulpit and his work, and pared to sell, delivered at residences or in said we considered his work done in B-, where I then lived. We groaned because there was no revival, while we were gossiping about and criticizing and crushing him, instead of upholding his hands by our efforts and our prayers, the very instrument at whose hand we harshly demanded the blessings.

"Well, sir, he could not drag on the chariot of salvation with a halt a dozen of us taunting him for his weakness, while we hung as a dead weight to the wheels; he had not the spirit, as we thought, and could not convert men; so we hunted him like a deer, till, worn and bleeding, he fled into a covert to die.

Scarcely had he gone when God came in among us by His Spirit, to show that HARD AND SOFT COALS! He had blest the labors of His dear re jected servant. Our own hearts were MASON'S MATERIALS! broken, our wayward children converted and I resolved at a convenient season, to visit my former pastor and confess my of our own manufacture, also sin, and thank him for his faithfulness to my wayward sons, which like long buried seed had now sprung up. But God denied me that relief, that he might teach me a lesson that every child of His ought MARBLE DUST, to learn-that he who toucheth one of His little ones toucheth the apple of His

I heard my pastor was ill, and taking my oldest son with me, set out on a twen- Also, KINDLING WOOD to families and stores by ty-five miles ride to see him. It was eve- the barrel. ning when I arrived, and his wife, with the spirit which any woman fugnt to exhibit toward one who had so wronged her husband, denied me admittance to his chamber. She said (and her words were like arrows to my soul) "He may be dying, and the sight of your face might add to his anguish." Had it come to this, I said to myself, that the man whose labors had through Christ, brought me into His fold, who had consoled my spirit in a terrible bereavement, and who had, till designing men alienated us, been to me a brother, that this man could not die in peace with my face before him? "God pity me!" I cried; "what have I done?" I confessed my sins to that meek woman, and implored her for Christ's sake to let me kneel before His Scroll Sawing and Wood Turning done to dying servant, and receive his forgive- order.

What did I care then whether the pews MASON'S MATERIALS, by the door were rented or not? I would gladly have taken his whole family to my home forever, as my flesh and blood; but no such happiness was in store for

As I enter d the room of the blessed warrior, whose armor was falling from his limbs, he opened his languid eyes, and said, "Brother Lee! brother Lee!" I

bent over him, and sobbed out, 'My pastor! my pastor! Then raising his white

hands, he said in a deep, impressive voice-"Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." I spoke tenderly to him, and told him

I had come to confess my sin, and bring some of his fruit to him (calling my son. to tell him how he had found Christ). create uneasiness in the church, and es But he was unconscious of all around; the sight of my face had brought the The doncon came in to meet his visitor, last pang of earth to his troubled spirit. erless little ones; but his only reply, murmured as if in a troubled dream, was: Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.'

I stayed by him all night, and at daybreak I closed his eyes.

I offered his widow a house to live in be remainder of her days; but like a a heroine she said : 'I freely forgive you, but my children, who entered deeply into their father's anguish, shall never see me so regardless of his memory as to take anything from those who caused it. He had left us all with his covenant God, and he will care for us."

Well, sir, those dying words sounded in my ears from that coffin, and from that grave. When I slept, Christ stood Do you think his sermons in their eyes before my dream, saying: Touch not were holden anything wonderfully mine anointed, do my prophets no harm.' These words followed me until I fully realized the esteem in which Christ holds Making bold, after all this encourage- those men who have given up all for his sake; and I vowed to love them evermore for his sake, even if they are not

My tongue shall cleave to the roof of my mouth, and my right hand forget her cunning, before I dare to put asunder what God has joined together. When a "Why," cried the amazed visitor, "you minister's work is done in a place I agree with me in all I have said, don't believe God will show it to him. I will not join you, sir, in the scheme that brought you here; and moreover, if I No. 887 BROAD ST. "You talk so little sir," replied the hear another word of this from your lips questioner, not a little abashed, "that I shall ask the brethren to deal with you no one can find out what you do as with one who causes divisions.

This decided reply put an end to the "I talked enough once," replied the new-comer's efforts to get a minister who old man rising to his feet, ' for six pray- could make more of a stir. There is ofing Christians. Thirty years ago I got ten great power in the little word "no;" lection for bridal and other gifts. Come and buy my heart humbled, and my tongue bri- but sometimes it requires not a little wherethe ware is made, and save the three or four dled; and ever since that I've walked soft- courage to speak it so resolutely as did profits. ly be for God. I then made vows solemn as the silent deacon-Christian Messenger.

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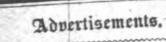
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